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News from the Midwest

Midwest Archives Conference

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News from the Midwest—Audrey McKanna Coleman, University of Kansas, and Troy Eller, Wayne State, Assistant Editors

Please submit "News from the Midwest" items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Troy Eller at troy.eller@wayne.edu, and items for Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Audrey McKanna Coleman at amcoleman@ku.edu.

Good-bye and Welcome

Heidi Butler has stepped down as assistant editor for News from the Midwest and is busy adjusting to life and a new archives job in a land far, far away from the Midwest—the United Arab Emirates! See People and Posts on page 28 for more info. Many thanks to Heidi for wrangling news from her six states since the October 2005 issue.

Stepping in is Troy Eller from the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University. Welcome, Troy! MACers from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio are encouraged to send their news to Troy at troy.eller@wayne.edu.

ILLINOIS

National Archives and Records Administration—Great Lakes Region (NARA)

NARA is pleased to announce that one of its volunteers, Ann Patricia Duffy, recently won the National Archives Weidman Outstanding Volunteer Service Award after spending 270 hours processing and improving access to Record Group 291, Records of the Federal Property Resources Service—Chicago. These records document the sale of federal property across six Midwest states, and include valuable information on decommissioned lighthouses, military facilities, post offices, airfields, research labs, and production facilities formerly owned by the federal government. Using the records was often a time-consuming task for researchers because information on a single piece of property is often spread over multiple accessions, which arrive with minimal information. Duffy took the lead in arranging the holdings maintenance work and entered information about each property into a spreadsheet that

integrates the numerous small accessions found in this record group along with key identifying information about each property.

Rotary International

Rotary International has teamed up with Google to make nearly 100 years of its flagship magazine, the *Rotarian*, available on-line. Full-color, searchable scans of all issues of the magazine from 1911 to 2008 are now available through Google Books. The collaboration is part of an initiative to make Rotary's historical resources more accessible to its worldwide constituents. Additionally, a new on-line timeline of Rotary history is now available at <http://www.rotary.org/history/>.

INDIANA

Allen County Public Library (ACPL)

When ACPL took responsibility for housing, preserving, and making accessible the research collection formerly owned by Fort Wayne's Lincoln Museum, the library pledged to "digi-

tize everything." Since "everything" includes more than 20,000 books and pamphlets, several thousand photographs, more than 10,000 pages of nineteenth-century newspapers, and extensive manuscript collections and vertical files, that digitization project is substantial. The first 145 photographs from the collection are now on the ACPL Web site. Most of these images are from the Lincoln Family Album Collection and are photos owned by four generations of the Abraham Lincoln family. In addition, more than 600 books and pamphlets are accessible on-line, with more being digitized every day at the Internet Archive facility located at ACPL. Current digitization is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant and by the Friends of the Lincoln Collection in Indiana. <http://gotobig.com/acpl/lincolncollection/>

Indiana Historical Society (IHS)

During the last quarter of 2009, the 37 digital collections created with CONTENTdm surpassed 38,000 images, 25 new manuscript and visual collection guides were placed on-line, 198 printed items were cataloged (available through the Web site and OPAC), 188 new Indiana-related collections were accessioned, and more than 40,000 Web site page hits per month were recorded. <http://www.indianahistory.org/library/>. On March 20, IHS opened the Indiana Experience featuring unique "time travel" exhibition programs such as "Destination Indiana," using touch screen technology to explore

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hundreds of collections items arranged in geographic and topical journeys, and “You Are There,” to re-create the content of a photograph in “life-size” three dimensions with first-person interpretation. <http://www.indianahistory.org/experience/>

Indiana University (IU)

The Black Film Center/Archive (BFC/A) moved to its new home in the Wells Library on the IU-Bloomington campus on January 7. The new space has a classroom; a seminar room; a quiet research room; office space for a visiting filmmaker/scholar, the director, and archivist; work space for interns; an equipment room; and a climate-controlled storage room for collections.

From March 1 to 5, the BFC/A hosted African filmmakers Gaston Kaboré (Burkina Faso), Euzhan Palcy (Martinique), Joseph Gai Ramaka (Senegal), and Jean-Marie Teno (Cameroon) as part of a forum, “From the Postcolonial to the Global Postmodern: African & Caribbean Francophone Filmmakers and Scholars in Conversation.” During the week, the filmmakers screened and discussed their films in workshops, in conversation with each other, and with film scholars Mybe Cham, Kenneth Harrow, and Francoise Pfaff.

On March 24–25, the BFC/A hosted a symposium examining two films in depth—*The Spook Who Sat by the Door* and *Nothing But a Man*. Guests and speakers included Sam Greenlee, who wrote the book and screenplay and coproduced *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*, and Robert M. Young, who cowrote and coproduced *Nothing But a Man*. Future issues of *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, published by the BFC/A in conjunction with Indiana University

Press, will feature sections dedicated to papers generated and presented at both events.

Purdue University

Purdue University Libraries Archives and Special Collections will be offering the exhibit “Amelia Earhart: The Aviator, the Advocate, and the Icon,” through May 28. This exhibit, cohosted with the Purdue Women’s Resource Office, opened in March to coincide with Women’s History Month events on campus. Featuring rare historic documents, photographs, and memorabilia, the exhibit explores Earhart’s enduring legacy and chronicles her aviation accomplishments, her work as a role model and career counselor for students at Purdue, and her advocacy on behalf of women’s rights. The exhibit includes items primarily from Purdue’s George Palmer Putnam Collection of Amelia Earhart Papers, which is the world’s largest collection of Amelia Earhart papers, photos, memorabilia, and artifacts.

IOWA

Iowa State University (ISU)

In support of ISU’s campus-wide Live Green! Initiative declared by President Gregory Geoffroy in 2008, the Special Collections Department has created a subject guide of environment and sustainability-related rare books, manuscripts, and university archives collections. These rare books and collections demonstrate an ongoing concern with the environment throughout the twentieth century, particularly in the state of Iowa, and cover such topics as soil and water conservation, alternative and efficient energy usage, recycling, wildlife protection, ecology, and sustainable

agriculture. Included are records of the Environment Council, Citizens United for Responsible Energy, National Association of Conservation Districts, and Iowans for Returnable Beverage Containers, as well as records related to the Live Green! Initiative. The department also holds individuals’ papers, including conservationist and botanist Ada Hayden, ornithologists Walter Rosene and Philip DuMont, and soil conservationist Hugh Hammond Bennett. <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/collections/sustainability.html>

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA)

In November 2009, the KDLA completed a two-year grant from the Library of Congress’s National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program to preserve information currently stored in the Kentucky Geography Network as well as other maps and data stored in state and local agency repositories. KDLA worked with the Kentucky Department of Geographic Information, Kentucky State University, and counterpart institutions in two other states to promote preservation of and access to geospatial content through a research project named GeoMAPP, <http://www.geomapp.net/>.

Under the leadership of the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis, partners from the archives, library, and geospatial communities in Kentucky, Utah, and North Carolina have explored ways to inventory and identify “at-risk” content and developed best practices to preserve that data. KDLA used its portion of the grant to create a techni-

cal infrastructure for accessioning data with historical value. During the project, staff revised records retention schedules for both state and local agencies. Additionally, the archives accessioned two years of quarterly data snapshots of the state system, numerous static maps, and several project files, as well as completing memorandums of agreement with two local consortiums to protect their GIS records. KDLA plans to continue to participate in an extension of this project in 2010, with the objective of improving access through various Web tools.

University of Louisville (UL)

The UL Libraries announces four new digital collections. The Dwight Anderson Music Library Collection includes a guest book containing more than 900 signatures from visitors to the UL School of Music over a 60-year period (1948–2009), including guest artists, composers, lecturers, and dignitaries. Full-text searchable documents accompany the signature pages, listing out the signatories by page number, alphabetically by last name, and with annotations. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/music/>

The August 2009 Flood Collection contains 210 selected digital images and three digital videos from an archived community collection devoted to documenting one of the worst floods in Louisville's history. A Google map links the flood images with their locations. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/flood/>

The André Jeunet Collection of 205 images captured by French soldier André Jeunet during World War I includes pictures of soldiers and civilians in northeastern France in

1915–1917 and the Balkans in 1917–1919. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/jeunet/>

The Royal Photo Company Collection debuts with 1,850 images taken by the Louisville commercial photo studio between 1937 and 1946. The remaining negatives (dating through 1972) are being scanned in chronological order, and the digital collection will be updated in phases as groups of scans are cataloged and completed. <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/royal/>

MICHIGAN

Grand Valley State University (GVSU)

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a “We the People” grant to the GVSU Special Collections and University Archives in support of a preservation assessment of its D. J. Angus Collection. Angus (1887–1966) was a founder of the Esterline-Angus Company of Indianapolis and a part-time resident of Grand Haven, Michigan. The Angus photograph and film collection is comprised of approximately 10,000 images taken between 1902 and 1962 by the “vagabond electrician” and group of friends who shared his curiosity about the world of science and engineering. The majority of the images were taken in and around Indianapolis and Grand Haven, and on month-long camping trips and family vacations throughout the United States and Mexico between 1910 and the late 1930s. Angus documented the construction of a number of dams, mills, and bridges throughout the country; natural phenomena such as geysers, lava fields, canyons, and craters; and the aftermath of floods,

shipwrecks, tornados, and cyclones throughout the Midwest. He also took still and moving images of cliff-dwellings and Aztec ruins in the Southwest and pre-Columbian pyramids in New Mexico. A portion of the images have been digitized and are available on-line. <http://www.gvsu.edu/library/digitalcollections/>

Michigan State University (MSU)

The University Archives & Historical Collections (UAHC) was awarded a \$251,079 grant by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to accession, preserve, and provide access to a significant portion of the university's permanent records that are created and maintained in electronic form. The team will build a Web site to inform colleagues of the project's progress and share monthly reports and deliverables from the project.

Since July 2009, a collaboration of the UAHC, MSU Libraries, and the MATRIX digital humanities research center has engaged in a university-wide digital curation planning (DCP) project. The yearlong project began with a questionnaire targeted to technical administrators and content creators and interviews with several units that reported the use of content management systems and/or digital repository software. The digital curation practices revealed by the interviews are expected to be leveraged by other academic and administrative units and to pave the way for the development of institutional standards and guidelines and a federation of repositories at Michigan State University.

On the Banks of the Red Cedar Web site went live in January and now provides

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quick and easy on-line access to documents, images, film, and audio materials related to the history of Michigan State University. New content is added daily, <http://onthebanks.msu.edu/>. The Archives@MSU blog provides information on current events, public hours, and collection news, <http://msuarchives.wordpress.com/>. The Archives is also on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Lansing-MI/Michigan-State-University-Archives/52451906185/>.

Michigan Technological University (MTU)

The MTU Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections recently launched two new exhibits. A traveling exhibit about the life and times of Calumet photographer J. W. Nara premiered at a special event in December at MTU's J. R. Van Pelt and Opie Library. As well as documenting the constructed industrial landscape, Nara's lens captured the area's rural countryside, local farms, shorelines, lighthouses, and pastoral back roads. The exhibit will travel to libraries, museums, and schools throughout Upper Michigan. The exhibit, "A Sense of Place," addresses four themes: early life on the Keweenaw Peninsula; copper miners and the mines in which they labored; the changing face of the Michigan Tech campus; and the communities that are home to longtime residents and students.

Four researchers will receive Michigan Tech Archives Travel Grants this year. Research topics include the relationship between representations of three-dimensional data and the flow of information within an organization; the practice of nineteenth- and twentieth-century medicine in a remote industrial community; the regional work of Michigan architect

D. Fred Charlton; and the politics and economics of community development during an era of industrial decline.

The Archives also launched a new blog this year to capture and share information on its collections, staff, and projects. <http://blogs.mtu.edu/archives/>

University of Michigan (UM)

The Norton Strange Townshend Family Papers are now open for research at the William L. Clements Library. This collection documents the political, educational, agricultural, and social activities of Norton Strange Townshend (1815–1895); his wife, Margaret Bailey Townshend; and several generations of related families in northern Ohio and elsewhere. Norton Strange Townshend had a long career, which included antislavery activism, political involvement in the local Liberty and Free Soil parties and in the U.S. House of Representatives, work on the Underground Railroad, a role as a medical inspector in the Civil War, and advocacy of scientific training for farmers. In addition to a wealth of nineteenth-century primary sources such as correspondence, diaries, published and unpublished writings, ephemera, and photographs, the collection contains 34 letters from Townshend's friend and mentor, Cincinnati Salmon P. Chase, and a number of daguerreotypes by Townshend's brother-in-law, renowned photographer Thomas M. Easterly. In conjunction with the opening of the papers, an on-line exhibit entitled "Honest Independence: The Life of Norton Strange Townshend" has been created in order to showcase some of the collection's treasures and provide biographical information on Townshend. <http://www.clements.umich.edu/>

Exhibits/townshend/index.html

Wayne State University (WSU)

The Reuther Library at WSU announces that abstracts and finding aids for all open collections are now available on its Web site. In January, the Reuther hosted the launch party for Living Detroit, a project of the WSU Honors College, with the support of the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation and numerous WSU departments and organizations. The project was developed to preserve the history of Detroit through oral history interviews with longtime residents of Detroit. Students will continue to conduct interviews with Detroit residents, and participants will be able to contribute stories directly through the Living Detroit Web site. <http://www.livingdetroit.wayne.edu/>

The AFSCME Office of the Secretary-Treasurer: Gordon Chapman/Joseph Ames Records, 1944–1973 are open for research. Records in this collection relate to the chartering, organizing, placement under trusteeship, and disbanding of thousands of locals and councils in the United States, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Canada.

MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota (UM)

The UM Libraries have received funding to digitize the Norman E. Borlaug Papers and selections from the papers of E. C. Stakman, Helen Hart, and John Gibler, and records from the department of Plant Pathology. These collections, held in University Archives, will form an on-line resource that conveys the Minnesota roots of the "Green Revolution," a term coined in the 1960s to describe worldwide advances in food crop production that began in the 1940s and saved

millions of people from starvation. The project, which will be completed by May 2011, is being supported by a \$27,667 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant, a program supported by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Approved by Minnesota voters in November 2008, the state constitutional amendment provides for an increase in the Minnesota state sales tax to support outdoor heritage, clean water, parks, and trails, as well as arts, history, and cultural heritage.

MISSOURI

St. Louis University (SLU)

The fully processed Kurt von Schuschnigg Manuscript Collection is now open. Schuschnigg, the embattled Austrian chancellor who failed to stave off the takeover of his country by Nazi Germany in 1938, spent years in concentration camps along with his wife and young daughter, who was born at Dachau. From 1948 to 1967 he was a professor in the SLU political science department. The collection opens a window onto Schuschnigg's political career and also illuminates his later private life as a controversial elder statesman attempting to interpret his times and his policies to posterity. A finding aid is located at <http://libraries.slu.edu/special/archives/findingaids/docmss65schuschnigg.pdf>.

Western Historical Manuscript Collection—Columbia

The Robert P. Christeson Collection reflects broad collecting in written and recorded music, and contains more than 1,300 record albums, hundreds of audiotapes, and 112 original wire recordings. There are hundreds of songbooks, some from the early nineteenth century, and thousands of pages of sheet music

covering everything from two-steps to waltzes and even band and marching music. Christeson (1911–1992) spent most of his life collecting materials that document the fiddle and dancing traditions of Missouri. His correspondence begins primarily in 1947–1948, when he became serious about collecting fiddle tunes, and these letters show just how difficult and frustrating it was to find information on Missouri fiddlers and their music. Years of traveling to visit with old-time fiddlers and record their music resulted in two books and a double-album set of fiddle tunes.

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Heritage Center

Fargo native Wayne Gudmundson presented a program on a new exhibit featuring his photographs at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck on January 31. The exhibit, "A Considered View," shows his perspective of the Upper Midwest in 21 black-and-white photographs. The exhibit is organized and circulated by the Plains Art Museum in Fargo and is funded in part by grants from the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies at North Dakota State University, the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, the North Dakota Council on the Arts, and the American Masterpieces Initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts. "A Considered View" will be at the North Dakota Heritage Center through October 10.

OHIO

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center

In February, the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center opened a new

exhibit, "Croquet: A Sport Story." Detailing the rise and fall in popularity of croquet in the United States in the nineteenth century, the exhibit highlights materials from the center's extensive collection on the sport. Sponsored by Diversified Insurance and Auto-Owners Insurance, "Croquet: A Sport Story" will be on display through August 1.

WISCONSIN

Marquette University (MU)

In November 2009, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded a \$149,000 grant to the "Catholic Social Action Access Project," a collaborative effort among the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA), Marquette University, Catholic University of America, and St. Catherine University. With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CLIR's "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" initiative supports cataloging of special collections at each institution. St. Catherine's Ade Bethune Collection includes the archives of the liturgical artist and social activist; Catholic University holds the Catholic Charities, D.C. records; and Marquette's more than 700 audio recordings within the vast Dorothy Day–Catholic Worker Collection document the faith-based movement of Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin. Marquette Libraries' Head of Special Collections and Archives Matt Blessing and Associate Dean of Libraries Jean Zanoni are coprincipal investigators for the grant. The records from the project will be collocated within CCRA's "Catholic portal," enabling discovery of local resources far beyond the participating institutions. Project activities began will be completed by December 2011.